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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/510,909	05/09/2005	Johannes Hafner	003D.0031.U1(US)	7335
29683	7590	11/03/2006	EXAMINER	
HARRINGTON & SMITH, LLP 4 RESEARCH DRIVE SHELTON, CT 06484-6212			STAHL, MICHAEL J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2874	

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/510,909

Applicant(s)

HAFNER ET AL.

Examiner

Mike Stahl

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 October 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/8/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to because in line 9, "claimping" should be changed to "clamping".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 2 and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 2 refers to "the small specified dimension". There is no antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims. Claim 2 also refers to the "the guide end" and "the cable side" in lines 4 and 6 respectively, but these terms are not rigorously defined. For example, it is not clear from parent claim 1 which side of the housing should be regarded as the "cable side", and claim 1 only refers to a "guide segment", not a "guide end".

Claim 4 refers to "the polymer fiber" but parent claim 1 does not establish that the fiber-optic is made of polymer. Claim 4 also refers to "the head end" but it is not clear which end of the plug housing should be regarded as the "head end".

Claim 5 refers to "the cable end". However, parent claim 1 does not establish which end is considered to be the "cable end".

Claim 7 refers to "the cable end". The parent claims do not establish which end is considered to be the "cable end". Claim 7 also refers to "the flanks" and "the serrated profile",

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but these terms do not have proper antecedent basis in the parent claims 5 or 1. However it is noted that claim 3 does refer to a serrated profile.

Claim 6 is included in this rejection based on its dependence from claim 5.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farhnbauer et al. (US 6599026) in view of Chien (US 5181268). It is noted that '026 is related to EP 0996010 A2 that was cited in the information disclosure statement filed October 8, 2004.

Claim 1: Farhnbauer discloses a fiber-optic cable arrangement with a plug housing, having a guide segment 17 and a clamping segment including 15 and 16 for attaching the fiber-

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optic cable to the plug, wherein the clamping segment has projections (transverse ribs of 19) on the inside for anchoring to the fiber-optic cable, which are pressed into the cable sheath by crimping, further wherein the fiber-optic cable has an outer sheathing 4, an inner sheathing 3, and a fiber-optic 2, and the clamping segment has projections on at least two axially extending subregions of its inner wall for crimping with the inner and outer sheathings of the fiber-optic cable (subregions 15 and 16 are applied to the inner and outer sheathings respectively. See figs. 1-4. However, Fahrnbauer does not specifically disclose an additional protective layer for the fiber 2.

Chien discloses a fiber protection system including an inner sheathing 16, an interfacial layer 13, and an outer sheathing 18. It is noted that layer 13 is a protective layer. Chien teaches that the layer 13 enhances the strippability of the outer sheathing 18. Thus it would have been obvious to a skilled person to include an intermediate protective layer similar to 13 between the inner and outer sheathings 3 and 4 of Fahrnbauer. A skilled person would have been motivated to do so because the outer sheathing 4 in Fahrnbauer must be stripped over a length 'd' to fit in the region 15 of the housing, and Chien teaches that adding an appropriate intermediate layer makes it easier to accomplish this operation. The fiber-optic cable arrangement according to the proposed combination meets all the limitations of claim 1.

Claim 3: The projections form a serrated profile.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim 1, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations claim 1 and a

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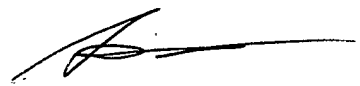
correction of the minor spelling error identified above. The applied Fahrnbauer reference discloses projections which cover the entire inner circumference (360°) of the bore. There is no teaching or suggestion to arrange the projections as claim 8 requires.

Conclusion

Inquiries about this letter should be directed to Mike Stahl at 571-272-2360. Inquiries of a general or clerical nature (e.g., a request for a missing form or paper, etc.) should be directed to the technical support staff supervisor at 571-272-1626. Official correspondence which is eligible for submission by facsimile and which pertains to this application may be faxed to 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Questions about the Private PAIR system should be directed to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mike Stahl *MSS*
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2874

October 16, 2006


SUNG PAK
PRIMARY EXAMINER